

It all happened in a moment, a most remarkable moment that was like none other. For through that segment of time a spectacular thing occurred. God became a man. While the creatures of earth walked unaware, Divinity arrived. Heaven opened herself and placed her most precious one in a human womb.

God as a foetus. Holiness sleeping in a womb. The creator of life being created. God was given eyebrows, elbows, two kidneys, and a spleen. He stretched against the walls and floated in the amniotic fluids of his mother.

God had come near. No silk. No ivory. No hype. To think of Jesus in such a light is — well, it seems almost irreverent, doesn't it? It is much easier to keep the humanity out of the incarnation.

But don't do it. For heaven's sake, don't. Let him be as human as he intended to be. Let him into the mire and muck of our world. For only if we let him in can he pull us out.

Max Lucado  
From: God Came Near



## Welcome to St. Giles Sarnia

Sunday December 14th, 2025  
Advent 3: Joy

The Reverend Rebecca Roushorne-Lau

*Wherever you are in your journey of faith there is a place for you here at St. Giles.  
We are a vibrant gathering of individuals united in our desire to follow Jesus.  
Following the service you are encouraged to join us in the Gathering Place  
for a time of connection and refreshment.*

**Order of Worship**  
**St Giles Presbyterian Church, Sarnia**  
**December 14, 2025**

**Opener** Advent Opener

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to worship** Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dreamed.

**Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
our tongues with songs of joy.**

Then it was said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

**The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.**

Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev.

Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow,  
will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.**

**Opening Hymn** Christmas Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

**Candle Lighting** See insert

**Sing:** Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel vs. 6

Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer

Our spirits by thine advent here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows to put to flight.

Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Children's Presentation**

**Presentation Hymn:** Mary's Boy Child

**Video** Come and See Joy

**Scripture** Isaiah 35:1-10

Luke 1:46-55

Matthew 11:2--6

**Sermon** A Peculiar Joy

**Hymn** Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession** followed by the Lord's Prayer

These things we pray in and though the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray in this way... Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Music**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Closing Words**

**Benediction**

**Closing Hymn** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Role	Today	December 21
Greeter	Paul K	Graham
Reader	Graham R	Bonnie N
Sunday School	Leanne, Liam	Emma, Margo
Nursery	Lilah	Lilah
Tellers	Scott & Liz	Pete & Paul
F e l l o w s h i p Hosts	Potluck	Suzanne & Margo

## CONNECT WITH US

**Rev. Rebecca Roushorne-Lau**  
revbecky@stgilessarnia.ca

**Dan Sonier**  
Music Director

**Nicole Grieve, Office Administrator**  
office@stgilessarnia.ca  
519-542-2253

Tues-Fri 8:00am-12:00pm

To receive **children's program emails**,  
contact office@stgilessarnia.ca

For the **weekly email and quarterly newsletter**, contact  
stgilesav@gmail.com

A **weekly podcast** of the sermon & scripture can be found on Spotify, Tuneln, and Apple.

Visit [youtube.com/stgileschurchsarnia](https://youtube.com/stgileschurchsarnia) for livestream, or on demand services.

Find us on the web.  
[www.stgilessarnia.ca](http://www.stgilessarnia.ca)

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## ST GILES ANNOUNCEMENTS: December 14, 2025

Welcome to St. Giles! It is a joy to gather for worship. Our community is committed to helping people grow into hope-filled followers of Jesus.

**Babies and toddlers** are welcome before and during the service in our staffed Nursery downstairs to the left. **Children of all ages** are invited to join our Sunday School that begins after the Children's Time in the service.

### **ST. GILES CARE MINISTRY**

We seek to care for each other in a way that supports and encourages all who are part of our community.

**Visits:** If you would like a visit from the Minister please email Rev. Becky at [revbecky@stgilessarnia.ca](mailto:revbecky@stgilessarnia.ca) or call the office to book a time that is good for you.

**Elders:** Our Elders have “districts” within our community that they pray for and connect with. If you don't know who your Elder is, or would like to request one, please connect with Rev. Becky to get connected with yours.

**Meal Ministry:** If you are in need of support as you recover from illness or surgery and think meals would help, please call the office or connect with Felicity.

**Prayer Needs:** If you'd like confidential prayer, please speak with Rev. Becky or or send it via email to [revbecky@stgilessarnia.ca](mailto:revbecky@stgilessarnia.ca) and she will inform the prayer team.

Please join us in praying for those who have requested prayer from the greater community: George Wilson, Lee Wilson, Bobby, Brittanae Carey; Tyler, the family of Sydney Vrolyk, John Collins, Bette Fitzpatrick, Ruth Leitch, Cynthia Rawana as she recovers from surgery.

**Bulletin Prayer Requests** can be emailed to: [office@stgilessarnia.ca](mailto:office@stgilessarnia.ca)

## THIS WEEK AT ST. GILES

Mon Dec 15	Special Olympics Yoga 6:30 pm
Tue Dec 16	Zoom Bible Study 9:30 am
	Beavers 6:15 pm
	Cubs 7:00 pm
Wed Dec 17	Bible Study 10:30 am
	Scouts 7:00 pm
	Oak Acres Group 7:30 pm
Thu Dec 18	Group Committee 7:00 pm
Sun Dec 21	Celtic Christmas with Communion 10:30 am

## STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Our Advent study concludes this week Tuesday morning at 9:30 am on Zoom, and Wednesday morning at 10:30 am. A new study will begin in January. If you'd like more information about upcoming studies please contact Rev. Becky.

## A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

St. Giles is blessed by generous givers, hard-working fundraisers, and responsible spenders. At the end of November, we are running an operating deficit of \$3,898. We have accomplished some major projects this year as planned, thanks to the many people that do the work and support the work. At this point in the year, it would be appreciated if donations that are to be directed to special projects or organizations be received as soon as possible to ensure that they are redistributed appropriately before year end. The budgeting process has begun for 2026, and the full 2025 financial summary will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Chris McCloskey

## CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION

Today we will have our annual Children's presentation from our youngest members of our community! Please also join us for potluck lunch after the service. More details about our lunch are below.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Congregational Life cordially invites you to our Annual Christmas Lunch **today** immediately following the Service.

## CELTIC CHRISTMAS AND COMMUNION SERVICE

Our annual Celtic Christmas will be held on **Sunday December 21** at 10:30 am. All are welcome!!

## 80 ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR OUR 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In honour of our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we hope to provide **80 acts of kindness** next year. You will find a sheet at the back of the church that explains this in detail. Please submit your acts of kindness to: [office@stgilessarnia.ca](mailto:office@stgilessarnia.ca).

## FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

We are in need of volunteers to host Fellowship on Sunday December 28, and into the New Year. Please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Place Kitchen.

## DONATIONS OF GENTLY USED CLOTHING

The St. Joseph's Church Divine Mercy Free Store are seeking winter coats, hats, mitts, scarves, blankets, sheet sets, towels, personal care products, backpacks, purses and duffel bags.

## PWS&D RESPONDS TO CRISIS IN SOMALIA

Sudan is currently facing a severe humanitarian crisis, with 24.8 million people in need of urgent aid, including 14 million children. PWS&D, with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, is providing critical food assistance to affected families. Children suffering from acute malnutrition are being treated and parents are receiving training on essential health and nutrition topics. Respond this Christmas to help provide life-saving food!